



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - April 25, 2003

- ***In the West***, cool, damp conditions continues to slow fieldwork and crop development in ***California*** and the ***Northwest***. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather favors spring fieldwork across the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, winter wheat and emerging, spring-sown crops are benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements. However, long-term drought remains a concern and continues to adversely affect rangeland on the ***northern and central Plains***, while topsoil moisture shortages persist across the majority of the ***southern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, beneficial showers continue in the ***middle Mississippi and lower Ohio Valleys***. In contrast, dry conditions across portions of the ***northern and western Corn Belt*** favor pre-planting fieldwork.
- ***In the South***, showers and locally heavy thunderstorms continue in areas ***east of the Delta***, slowing fieldwork but aiding recently planted summer crops. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather is promoting a gradual return to fieldwork from the ***western Gulf Coast region to the Delta***, following beneficial rainfall.

Outlook: Severe weather is likely today across the ***Southeast***, as a slow-moving storm tracks eastward. Meanwhile, rain will gradually spread northeastward through the ***Appalachians, Mid-Atlantic States, and Northeast***. Farther west, dry weather will return to the ***southern Plains and lower Mississippi Valley***. During the weekend, showers across the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies*** will overspread the ***northern Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 30 - May 4 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Great Basin, central Rockies, Plains***, much of the ***Corn Belt***, and ***southern Florida***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather is forecast along much of the ***nation's northern and southern tiers***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***Rio Grande Valley and eastern half of the U.S.***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected ***west of the Rockies***.

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